

Application No. 09/807,403
Amendment dated May 16, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): Apparatus for applying negative pressure therapy to a wound site, which comprises an open celled foam pad for application to the wound, a suction tube connecting the foam pad to a collection canister, said canister having a shut-off valve which closes an outlet from the canister when it is full, a tube connecting the canister to a wall suction point, and a pressure detector connected to the suction tube between the foam pad and the canister for indicating when the pressure in the suction tube crosses a predetermined level.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~which includes further comprising~~ a flow limiting valve disposed between the canister and the wall suction source point, the flow limiting valve allowing adjustment of the flow to a selected rate such that flow in the tube does not exceed the selected rate.

Claim 3 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which includes a pressure relief valve which is connected to the suction tube between the foam pad and the canister.

Claim 4 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a first transducer for measuring pressure in the tube linking the canister to the wall suction point, and wherein the pressure detector connected to the suction tube between the foam pad and the canister comprises a second transducer.

Application No. 09/807,403
Amendment dated May 16, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2007

Claim 5 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which includes a flow rate meter for measuring the rate at which fluid is drawn from the wound site.

Claim 6 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the flow rate meter measures the rate at which the canister is filled.

Claim 7 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 in which the flow rate meter is an electrical capacitance measuring device.

Claim 8 (previously presented): Apparatus for applying negative pressure therapy to a wound site, which comprises an open-celled foam pad for application to the wound, a suction tube connecting the foam pad to a collection canister, a tube connecting the canister to a wall suction point and a sensor operable to detect when the canister is full.

Claim 9 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 8 which includes means for giving a warning that the canister is full and/or shutting off the connection between the canister and the wall suction point.

Claim 10 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 8 which further includes means for monitoring pressure at the wound site.

Claim 11 (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 8 which further includes means for regulating pressure between the canister and the wall suction point.

Claim 12 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 in which the pressure detector comprises a transducer connected by a branch tube to the suction tube leading from the foam pad to the canister.

Application No. 09/807,403
Amendment dated May 16, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2007

Claim 13 (previously presented): Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a processor operationally coupled to the relief valve and programmed to provide intermittent negative pressure therapy to the wound site.

Claim 14 (currently amended): Apparatus for applying negative pressure therapy to a wound site, the apparatus comprising:

an open-celled foam pad for application to the wound;

a suction tube connecting the foam pad to a collection canister;

~~a tube for connecting the canister to a wall suction point;~~

~~a pressure regulator connected the tube for connecting the canister to said wall suction point~~ fluidly connected between the canister and a wall suction point; and

a processor in electronic communication with the pressure regulator to regulate the pressure from said wall suction point to the collection canister.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the pressure regulator includes a relief valve, and wherein the processor is configured to actuate the relief valve to relieve pressure at the wound site when pressure at the wound site reaches a set maximum pressure.